

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 185
By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Samuel P. Anderson for
laudable service to the people of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those
citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community
leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Samuel P. Anderson of Knoxville, who has
dedicated his professional life and personal excellence to improving the lives of the residents of
his beloved city, serving in numerous capacities with Austin East High School, the Knox County
School Board and the Department of Parks and Recreation; and

WHEREAS, a native Knoxvillean and a graduate of Gibbs High School, Mr. Anderson
received his Bachelors of Science in Education from Tennessee Technological University in
1976 and his Masters of Educational Administration from Lincoln Memorial University in 1994;
and

WHEREAS, from 1976 through 1987, Samuel Anderson taught courses in Economics
and American Government at Austin East High School while coaching championship football
and track teams; from 1981 to 1987, he also served as the school's Athletic Director; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the girls' track team won three state championships and the football team won two state championships and was twice the state runner-up; Coach Anderson has been highly decorated for his remarkable coaching ability, thrice being named Tennessee High School Football Coach of the Year and being honored with 14 distinguished awards, including the Southeastern United States High School Coach of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, furthering his inimitable legacy as a successful and progressive educator, Mr. Anderson has served on the Knox County School Board since 1988 and is currently serving his second term as this organization's Chairman; and

WHEREAS, in his years on the School Board, Samuel P. Anderson has fought for and negotiated \$100 million in construction and renovation projects in several Knox County schools and has worked to fund public support for Project Grad Academic Scholarships for graduates of Austin East and Fulton High Schools, and in 1993, he was named the Tennessee School Board Member of the Year; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1988, Mr. Anderson made history when he assumed the Directorship of the Department of Parks and Recreation; his appointment by Mayor Victor Ashe made him the first African-American to head a city department in Knoxville's history; and

WHEREAS, as Director of Parks and Recreation, Samuel Anderson supervises over 800 employees, monitoring the total operations of 91 parks, 24 recreation centers, and all the city's athletic leagues; he has overseen the construction of 15 parks, including 32 miles of new greenway, 501 acres of new parkland, and the renovation of several additional parks; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anderson has created various programs that provide recreational opportunities for children of families with low incomes, and he has been actively involved in the development of The Wee Course at Williams Creek, a youth golf course; and

WHEREAS, in honor of his astute and loyal service to the people of Knoxville, Mayor Victor Ashe named the Caswell Park Pavilion the "Sam Anderson Pavilion"; a bronze plaque now hangs in the pavilion, highlighting Mr. Anderson's remarkable achievements; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Samuel P. Anderson is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Jean Anderson, and their children, Jeremy, Jenae and Anthony; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anderson epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Samuel Anderson for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Samuel P. Anderson for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.